be puzzled by descriptions of antigens and monoclonal antibodies without their relevance really being explained. My own understanding came only because I have used these antibodies in my own research, and would not have been illuminated by the description here. Perhaps this could be addressed in future editions.

These small complaints aside, this is an extremely worthwhile book, not only for the reference library, but also for individual ownership by clinicians. As it is likely to become the classic in its field, perhaps the next edition could be brought out in paperback to reduce costs and widen access.

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Pan Vascular Medicine: Integrated Clinical Management
P. Lanzer and E. J. Topol, eds.
Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 2002.
1941 pages, price €219.

This huge and expensive book provides a broad overview of the medical aspects of vascular disease including basic science. Panvascular medicine represents a new approach reflecting the systemic nature of vascular disease. To unify the field, the vascular system is viewed as a functional unity. The textbook has been divided into ten parts. Parts I and II summarize vascular science and diagnostics. Parts III–V summarize coronary, cerebrovascular and peripheral arterial diseases. Parts VI–X summarize the venous, lymphatic, aortic, visceral, endocrine, and genitourinary vascular disorders. Selected parts of the textbook are further subdivided into sections with individual chapters.

In Part I, following a section on epidemiology, and embryology, the chapter on vascular anatomy is incomplete and not practical. Section 4 on vascular physiology including hemodynamics, arterial wall mechanics and microcirculatory function is well summarized. Vascular biology is covered in eight chapters. The complexity of the subject is clearly discussed as well as molecular and cellular angiogenesis.

In Section 6, an interesting chapter on mechanical properties of atherosclerotic lesions is presented. Unfortunately, the section on clinical examination (Part II, Section 1, Chapter 26) is not designed to provide a comprehensive approach, and many references are outdated. In particular, the consensus document regarding peripheral arterial disease (TASC) published in 2000 is ignored. The major portion of the book from Sections 3–10 deals with vascular pathologies but information on the same topic is often discussed in separate parts of the book with duplication of information. For example, Chapter 86 on peripheral arterial disease and chronic ischemic syndromes, describes vascular testing in detail but this has already been covered in Chapter 27. Furthermore, despite the 1941 pages, some subjects are not addressed. Thoracic outlet syndrome is absent from the chapters on arterial disease of the upper extremities. Redundancies and overlaps together with missing information make this book difficult to use for vascular specialists in training. However some excellent chapters are of interest to the vascular specialist. As an example, the chapter on intracranial aneurysms is outstanding and well illustrated but outside the everyday practice of most vascular specialists.

In summary, this book is a compendium of vascular topics in a novel perspective. This "PanVascular" culture which looks like "a little of everything" is sometimes difficult to follow. The book is expensive and compares poorly to other texts such as the evidence-based practice of vascular medicine highlighted by WB Rutherford (*Vascular Surgery*, 5th edition, WB Saunders, 1999), W. Moore (*Vascular surgery: a comprehensive review*, WB Saunders, 2002), or J. Beard (*Vascular and Endovascular surgery*, WB Saunders, 2001).

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